

f - Rudin - NY Times

Note for Dennis, Darienne

From: Holt, Barry
Date: Wed, Mar 16, 1994 2:51 PM
Subject: Janofsky Interview today
To: Fuller, Craig
Cc: Collamore, Thomas; Dennis, Darienne; Han, Vic; Merlo, Ellen; Parrish, Steve; Rolli, Nicholas

Steve, Chuck, Vic and I met with him for about an hour today. He's clearly using our friend Malik as the basis for a story which will probably lead that "PM has consistantly worked at elements of it's tobacco products to make them safer. Even though scientists in our R&D facility (aka Malik) have discovered ways of doing this, we have surpressed the research and kept it from the American public."

He's obviously done his homework on this one and was more informed than I expected. The only thing is, he is getting most of his information from a jaded source.

He asked questions about (among other things): our laboratories; what they do; ETS internal research; did we surpress proprietary science to remove harmful chemicals; are we dumping nicotine residue into the James River.

Apparently all these things track from what we've heard Malik talking about since his termination.

Chuck and Steve handled many of the questions quite well. My gut is that he'll have our point of view in there but that it will be heavily skewed to Malik's assertions.

The group decided to do the following:

--Provide him with access to the attorney in Washington (Jerry Libin) who conducted the Malik investigation.

--Get him together with some of our key scientists...early next week.

--Try to get him to Richmond for an indepth tour and even allow him to bring his own independent scientist.

--I would call him (off the record) and tell him how Malik has threatend our company, that he's somewhat unstable (I have Eric Taussig's files and will take some notes from them). I originally thought discrediting Malik was not in our interest and could backfire. But after the interview I'm approaching it differently. He's too reliant on Malik and we must tell him what has transpired with this guy. I will also tell him he should run by his editors and lawyers carefully for potentially libelous material since Malik is so volatile.

Overall, he appreciated our time and will probably meet with us at least one or two more times.

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